

Guided Discussion - Force Protection

<u>TIME</u>	<u>INTRODUCTION</u>	<u>REMARKS/NOTES</u>
	<p>Good morning my name is _____ today we will be talking force protection and why every Marine should practice sound personal protective measures.</p> <p>The ground rules for this discussion are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) No personal attacks on anyone's opinions(2) Allow each participant to express themselves(3) Drinking coffee and soda is allowed(4) Make head calls at your leisure, just don't interrupt the group(5) Keep your language clean as not to offend others(6) PARTICIPATION BY ALL!!!!!! <p>Gain Attention</p> <p>If you have access to a computer, recommend you show the following YouTube Clip:</p> <p><u>Beirut Remembered</u></p> <p>The Beirut Barracks Bombings (October 23, 1983, in Beirut, Lebanon) occurred during the Lebanese Civil War when two truck bombs struck separate buildings housing United States and French military forces—members of the Multinational Force (MNF) in Lebanon—killing 299 American and French servicemen. An obscure group calling itself 'Islamic Jihad' claimed responsibility for the bombings.</p> <p>Suicide bombers detonated each of the truck bombs. In the attack on the building serving as a barracks for the 1st Battalion 8th Marines (Battalion Landing Team - BLT 1/8), the death toll was 241 American servicemen: 220 Marines, 18 sailors and three soldiers, making this incident the deadliest single-day death toll for the United States Marine Corps since World War II's Battle of Iwo Jima, the deadliest single-day death toll for the United States military since the first day of the Vietnam War's Tet Offensive, and the deadliest single attack on Americans overseas since World War II. Another 128 Americans were wounded in the blast. Thirteen later died of their injuries, and they are numbered among the total number who died. An elderly Lebanese man, a custodian/vendor who was known to work and sleep in his concession stand next to the building, was also killed in the first blast. The explosives used were later estimated to be equivalent to as much as 9,525 kg (21,000 pounds) of TNT.</p> <p>At around 06:22, a 19-ton yellow Mercedes-Benz stake-bed truck drove to the Beirut International Airport (BIA), where the U.S. 24th Marine Amphibious Unit (MAU) was deployed. The 1st Battalion 8th Marines (BLT), commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Larry Gerlach, was a subordinate element of the 24th MAU. The truck was not the water truck they had been expecting. Instead, it was a hijacked truck carrying explosives. The driver turned his truck onto an access</p>	

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road leading to the compound. He drove into and circled the parking lot, and then he accelerated to crash through a 5-foot-high barrier of concertina wire separating the parking lot from the building. The wire popped "like somebody walking on twigs." The truck then passed between two sentry posts and through an open vehicle gate in the perimeter chain-link fence, crashed through a guard shack in front of the building and smashed into the lobby of the building serving as the barracks for the 1st Battalion 8th Marines (BLT). The sentries at the gate were operating under rules of engagement, which made it very difficult to respond quickly to the truck. Sentries were ordered to keep their weapons at condition four (no magazine inserted and no rounds in the chamber). Only one sentry, LCpl Eddie DiFranco, was able to load and chamber a round. However, by that time the truck was already crashing into the building's entryway.

The suicide bomber, an Iranian national named Ismail Ascari, detonated his explosives, which were later estimated to be equivalent to approximately 9,525 kilograms (21,000 pounds) of TNT. The force of the explosion collapsed the four-story building into rubble, crushing many inside. According to Eric Hammel in his history of the U.S. Marine landing force,

"The force of the explosion initially lifted the entire four-story structure, shearing the bases of the concrete support columns, each measuring fifteen feet in circumference and reinforced by numerous one-and-three-quarter-inch steel rods. The airborne building then fell in upon itself. A massive shock wave and ball of flaming gas was hurled in all directions."

The explosive mechanism was a gas-enhanced device consisting of compressed butane in canisters employed with pentaerythritol tetranitrate (PETN) to create a fuel-air explosive. The bomb was carried on a layer of concrete covered with a slab of marble to direct the blast upward. Despite the lack of sophistication and wide availability of its component parts, a gas-enhanced device can be a lethal weapon. These devices were similar to fuel-air or thermobaric weapons, explaining the large blast and damage. An after-action forensic investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) determined that the bomb was so powerful that it probably would have brought down the building even if the sentries had managed to stop the truck between the gate and the building.

[1983 Beirut Barracks Bombing](#)

Key points for this discussion will be:

- (1) Define force protection
- (2) Discuss force protection measures in dealing with terrorism
- (3) Discuss why every Marine should practice sound personal protective measures

Learning Objective: After this guided discussion, you will have a better understanding of force protection and why every Marine should practice sound personal protective measures.

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<u>TIME</u>	<u>DISCUSSION</u>	<u>REMARKS/NOTES</u>
	<p><u>KEY POINT 1</u></p> <p>1. What do you think of when you hear someone say force protection?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Force protection is the process by which individuals and units minimize the risk to both from external dangers. It consists of a series of measures that minimize the risk from terrorist threats, accidental injury, and damage to property and equipment. - Force protection is a security program designed to protect military personnel, civilian employees, family members, facilities, and equipment in all locations and situations. - Force protection is accomplished through a systematic approach which integrates the planning and application of combating terrorism, physical security, operations security (OPSEC), and personal protective measures, supported by intelligence, counterintelligence, and other security programs. - In its purest sense, force protection is an overarching concept. It includes those procedural, training, equipment and leadership principles necessary to ensure the safety and well-being of our Marines, their family members, and our civilian employees. - Force protection within the Marine Corps has its foundation in two tenets that have withstood time within our Corps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first being that Marines take care of their own. • The second being that commanders are ultimately responsible for the security of their personnel. - In essence, force protection is an inherent function of command and as such should be an integral part of the way we do business on a daily basis. <p>Interim Summary: We just finished defined force protection as...</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <p>Now let's talk about force protection measures in dealing with terrorism.</p>	
	<p><u>KEY POINT 2</u></p> <p>1. What does terrorism mean? Who thinks the attack on the Marine Barracks in Beirut was an act of terrorism? Why?</p>	

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- Terrorism is defined as "the calculated use of violence or threat of violence to inculcate fear; its intended purpose is to coerce or to intimidate governments or societies in the pursuit of goals that are generally political, religious, or ideological."

2. Does the Marine Corps have force protection measures to deal with terrorism? Who can tell us what they are?

- Combating terrorism encompasses aspects of antiterrorism (defensive measures which reduce vulnerability to terrorist acts) and counterterrorism (offensive measures taken to prevent, deter, and respond to terrorism) and is therefore an integral part of the overall force protection concept.

- Anti-terrorism measures are designed to prevent a terrorist attack. Anti-terrorism measures include:

- Criminal information and intelligence gathering
- Threat assessments
- Crime prevention measures
- Operational security measures
- Personal protection
- Physical security measures
- Crisis management planning

- Counter-terrorism measures are taken in response to a terrorist incident.

- First follow the crisis management steps developed as part of the anti-terrorist planning.
- Identify if the threat is a terrorist one and not criminal (non-terrorist) in nature.
- Be prepared for follow-on or diversionary attacks.
- Establish communications, prepare for prolonged operations, develop a media plan and follow up with an after-action report.

3. Do you think the Marines were prepared to respond to the truck driving through the complex? What if anything would you have changed?

- "The sentries at the gate were operating under rules of engagement, which made it very difficult to respond quickly to the truck. Sentries were ordered to keep their weapons at condition four (no magazine inserted and no rounds in the chamber)."

Interim Summary: We just finished defining terrorism and discussed the different protective measures the Marine Corps has, such as...

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	Now let's talk about why every Marine should practice sound personal protective measures.	
<u>TIME</u>	<u>KEY POINT 3</u> 1. Why do you think every Marine should practice sound personal protective measures? - Every Marine should practice sound personal protective measures. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness of your surroundings • Avoiding patterns and habits • Blending into the local surroundings and not drawing attention to yourself 2. Are force protection measures limited to those concerned with terrorism? Should you use force protection measures when you are off-duty or on liberty? - Marines should be constantly aware of their surroundings no matter where they are or their circumstances. Below are all force protection measures that ensure that every Marine and his equipment are all combat ready to answer a 911 call. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liberty conduct • Personal safety • Operational Risk Management • Preventative Maintenance 	<u>REMARKS/NOTES</u>
<u>TIME</u>	<u>SUMMARY/CONCLUSION</u> Today we have defined force protection and discussed force protection measures in dealing with terrorism, and why every Marine should practice sound personal protective measures. I am confident that you now have a better understanding of force protection and why every Marine should practice sound personal protective measures. Closing Statement: For Marines, force protection is nothing new. We have long prided ourselves on taking care of our Marines and are keenly aware that the security of personnel and equipment is an inherent responsibility of the commander. Those in leadership positions, regardless of rank, have a responsibility to ensure that our forces are properly prepared to meet, counter, and survive the terrorist threat. <u>END OF DISCUSSION</u>	<u>REMARKS/NOTES</u>

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<p><u>RESOURCES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- US Marine Corps, Martial Arts Center of Excellence. Instructor Outline. Counters to Strikes. Green Belt. MAIA1015. Revised 03/21/11.- MCWP 6-11: Leading Marines- NAVMC 2927: Antiterrorism/Force Protection Campaign Plan- Joint Publication 3-07.2: Joint Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures for Antiterrorism- Joint Publication 1-02: Department of Defense Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms	
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